



February, 1991

Volume XXII Number 1

FREE

Agnos Hears Hill Demos' Concerns

By Judy Baston

A visit by Mayor Art Agnos to a packed gathering of the Potrero Hill Democratic Club Jan 8 provided a preview of budgetary belt-tightening that may be in store for the city, as Agnos predicted, "Some of the things we're accustomed to, we'll do without for a year or two."

Agnos, who had lived on the Hill for 20 years before he and his family moved to a larger house on Twin Peaks, noted that the current drought is proving costly to the city. San Francisco-owned water resources, as well as the airport and the port, are supposed to be revenue-raisers for the city, while it is assumed that areas such as the health and social services departments and public transportation will lose money.

But while the city's sale of excess water brought in some \$25 million two years ago and five million last year, "next year there could be a deficit," Agnos stressed. He also pointed to a multi-billion dollar state budget deficit, which could mean additional reductions in city funding.

Although he provided no specifics about a budget proposal, he noted wryly that with the new system proposed for the Main Library, "neighborhood libraries are going to be obsolete, but I'm not going to touch them." Agnos' first year budget suggested closing four branch libraries and cutting back others. After a storm of protest the plans were rescinded.

Re-introduction of the proposal to raise the real estate transfer tax could yield San Francisco nearly \$21 million, Agnos said, "seventy-five percent of which would come from the sale of big downtown buildings." The proposal would increase the tax from \$5 to \$9 per \$1,000 of all transactions over \$300,000, with these funds going to increase the police force and to help subsidize affordable housing in Mission Bay and elsewhere in the city.

Although a similar proposal, as well as one that would establish vacancy control of many rental units in the city, was defeated by the Board of Supervisors last year, Agnos is hopeful that the election of three new Board members will make a difference on these issues. He had come to the Potrero Hill meeting straight from gatherings to celebrate the swearing-in of new Board members Roberta Achtenberg, Carole Migden and Kevin Shelley, and noted that the three "share with me a common bond in progressive, liberal values about government; they see government as a way to make this a better place for all of us."

Agnos also said that he would push another ballot measure this year to build a new Youth Guidance Center, and possibly one for strengthening unreinforced masonry buildings in the city. He also indicated he is "looking forward to the demolition of the Embarcadero Freeway."

The Mayor answered many questions from Democratic Club members. In response to a query about the city's attempts to shelter the homeless, Agnos noted that "I think we have the potential to get all the homeless off the streets of



Mayor Art Agnos (left rear) listens intently to Potrero Hill residents' questions at recent neighborhood Democratic Club session.

Ken Hjelle photo

Clark Medical Center Calls for Hill Support at Group Meeting Feb. 11

It is budget time again and the dental services at Potrero Hill Health Center (PHHC/Caleb Clark) appear to be targeted for cutting. Rumor has it that the same budget conditions exist or are projected as was the case for fiscal year 1990. In fact, conditions may be worse.

The Dental Clinic has struggled through this past year with too few personnel. There was no hygienist and there was an acute shortage of dental aides.

"We continue to have a great need for these services because our loyal following prefer our clinic to no service at all and/or waiting months (sometimes as long as a year) at the outpatient clinics at S.F.

General, stressed Harry Denson, a dentist at the clinic.

"We need strong and vocal support from the community to lobby the Health Commission, the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor," he added.

The Potrero Hill Health Center and specifically Dental could do much more to reduce the drain on public health funds if an active on-site billing service were established, Denson noted. He urged residents to join the clinic's support group to find out what's happening and what can be done, on Monday, Feb. 11, at 6 p.m., at the PHHC, 1050 Wisconsin St. Phone: 648-3022.

San Francisco. People see a lot of panhandlers, but they aren't necessarily homeless." The Mayor added that "homelessness is not only houselessness; it's also mental illness, substance abuse and un- and under-employment."

He also responded to another member who complained of a lengthy and confusing building permit process by vowing to "streamline" the process, but Agnos noted that the "neighborhood right of discretionary review is sacrosanct."

Many of the people participating in the meeting with Agnos had been active in his 1987 campaign, and the Mayor admitted that among his supporters they are "a lot of people who had expectations they may not have thought I'd lived up to."

If his campaign organization had continued, it would have made the last three years easier, Agnos emphasized. "With precinct leaders, I got feedback and energy and people heard my message unfiltered." His initial vision of regular meetings in the City Hall rotunda was dashed with a City Attorney's ruling that such gatherings were impermissible, and "the expenses to maintain the campaign organization would have been \$40,000 per month," the Mayor noted.

Agnos is running for re-election this year, and plans to issue another book, perhaps including a follow-up to his 1987 campaign volume, "Getting Things Done." "I have kept over 90 percent of the promises in "Getting Things Done," Agnos told the Hill group, "even if each was not accomplished 100 percent." When his message gets out in his new campaign book, the Mayor vowed, "people will see that I have kept faith with my promises."

**A Call for Peace
from
Potrero Hill
- See Pages 2 & 5**

STATE OF THE UNION - 2



IN OUR VIEW

Out of Heartsickness & Anger Must Come a Call for Peace

Publishing a monthly newspaper inevitably carries the risk that information that may seem immediate at press time, or an issue that may appear important as we put our paper to bed, will somehow become "old news" before another edition can reach our readers. Frankly, we would gladly welcome such a situation. But unfortunately it is clear to us that both President George Bush and Saddam Hussein are prepared for and committed to a long and bloody war.

Gone is any initial hope we may have had that there would be a short war in the Persian Gulf; that a few days of bloodless attacks would bring about the surrender of Saddam. The sense of unreality created by watching carefully censored dispatches that try to hide the human carnage has given way to the realization that we could face months -- and perhaps even years -- of killing.

We are already beginning to see the massive destruction this war is causing. And the longer this war goes on, the more we can expect to see.

- * We will see U.S. troops by the thousands returning in body bags, and losses even greater by the civilians, as well as the combatants, in Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries. And we will see continued attacks on Israel and the growing danger that Israel will be pulled into the war, widening its scope and making it every more difficult to end.

- * We will see dozens of health, education and social programs virtually wiped out, with the expenditure of half a billion dollars per day on this war leaving little in the federal budget to deal with the homeless, AIDS research and treatment, drug problems or any of the ills that plague our society.

- * We will see continued and unprecedented environmental catastrophe as deliberate oil dumping and fires threaten to spread deadly toxic fumes throughout the world.

- * We may see frustration, anger and hatred here at home turn to increasing violence -- with even more firebombings of Arab-owned stores and Jewish synagogues, with police cars burned and demonstrators attacked, and with emotional rhetoric completely replacing rational debate.

LETTERS

Dr. Ewald says "Goodbye" Kopp Says "Thanks"

Editor:

I am writing this letter to tell the patients of the Potrero Health Center that I am leaving the health center at the end of February. There should be no disruption to the care that your children will receive by both the existing staff and my replacement.

To thank all the families, staff, and community members is impossible; but I sincerely do give all of you my sincere thanks, especially your children. I would like to ask you to consider doing one thing for me. The clinic seriously needs an active and representative advisory board to organize and lobby for the health center. The next years will bring serious budget cutting and political priority setting by local government.

I feel very strongly that if you do not start organizing and continue an active clinic-advisory board your health center will be compromised more than it is today. Thus please consider attending the next meeting on Monday, Feb. 11 at 6pm, at 1050 Wisconsin St. Snacks and childcare will be provided.

Peter Ewald, M.D.

Editor:

Having failed to "carry" Potrero Hill at the time I first ran for the California Senate in 1986, I was overjoyed by the margin of success which the voters of the neighborhood bestowed upon my candidacy for re-election on November 6, 1990.

I write to thank the people of Potrero Hill for the kind thoughts of confidence and regard which are reflected in that margin. It has been a pleasure personally to try to provide the very highest standard of representation and leadership to the residents of Potrero Hill the past four years and, with the benefit of those years of experience and a continuing resolve to do so in the future, I look forward to my next term in the Senate. As always, if I can ever assist the residents of Potrero Hill, at the State Capitol or otherwise, I simply ask that they let me know and, concomitantly, I continue welcome suggestions, opinions and information on any issue which concerns or interests any resident of the neighborhood.

Quentin L. Kopp
(I-San Francisco, San Mateo)

It is stunning to realize the extent to which the U.S. and countries such as France and the Soviet Union supported Saddam Hussein with military aid even in the recent past, knowing full well that he had used chemical warfare on the women and children of the Kurdish minority in Iraq. It is stunning to realize that as late as last July, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie -- who has not been heard from since -- told Saddam that this country "has no position on your border dispute with Kuwait." The reason for this complicity with a man known to be a murderous dictator was clear -- oil. And equally clear is that fear of losing this oil was a major reason for Bush's decision to wage war.

We have talked with many people -- on Potrero Hill and throughout the city -- who are appalled by the arrogance of Bush's "New World Order," (was Joseph Goebbels ghost-writing from beyond the grave?) but do not want to see a "New World Order" controlled by Saddam either. We have talked to many people who believe deeply that Saddam and his inner circle must be defeated and yet are heartsick and angered by this war. We do not believe that these feelings are contradictory. They both reflect a course for peace that we must pursue.

There is growing international support for a cease fire, thoroughly enforced and verified by a truly international peace-keeping force, and including the establishment of specific demilitarized zones, such as Western Iraq. During this cease fire, the U.S. and other nations would continue to fight Saddam -- but with the economic weapons of sanctions, not the lethal weapons of death. Until the U.S. declared war on January 16, the sanctions were indeed crippling the Iraqi economy, and almost half the U.S. Senate and nearly as many members of Congress voted to give sanctions more time before igniting a conflagration that would produce death and destruction on both sides.

We have heard some people say that only when hundreds -- or even thousands -- of our troops start dying will the American people and our elected representatives be ready to look for a way to stop the killing. What helplessness and even cynicism such a perspective reflects. War, unfortunately is instantaneous, but peace is not. So the time to call for peace is now.

Despite the nearly unanimous Congressional resolution that equated supporting our troops with supporting Bush, we believe many elected officials do not agree, and would welcome a plan to help end the killing. Let them hear our voices and our message: call for a cease-fire, fight Saddam with sanctions, and bring our troops home -- alive.



Masthead design by
Giacomo Patri

EDITOR: Ruth Passen

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Judy Baston

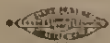
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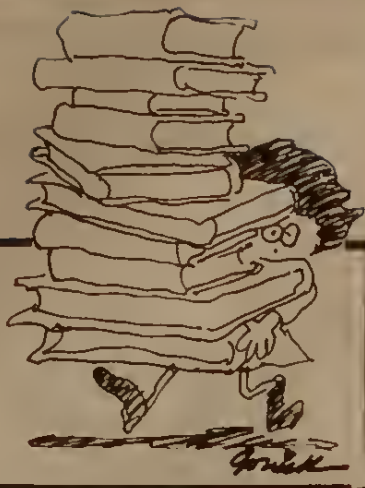
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953 DE HARO STREET S.F. 94107

LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH
1616 20th St. 285-3022



Closed Monday
Tuesday 10-12 and 1-6pm
Wednesday 1-9pm
Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 1-6pm

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Bring the whole family to the library to celebrate Black History Month with the male chorus of the Providence Baptist Church, Saturday afternoon, 4 p.m., February 9. The program will feature spirituals, hymns, and gospel music, with Potrero Branch Library staff member Lois Bailey at the keyboard.

BUDGET

The Library Commission held public meetings in January to discuss the 1991/92 library budget, and it may not be too late to attend the last meeting, February 5, at 4:30 p.m., in the Lurie Room of the Main Library. If you missed the meetings and are interested in the library's budget, talk to Potrero's Neighborhood Library Council members Ann Longknife or Judy Baston, or to librarians Kay Roberts or Cathy Nyhan.

TAX FORMS

Yes, we have them! You can pick up the basic IRS form and instruction booklets for 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ, and we also distribute the state's booklet including instructions and forms for 540 and 540A. Both the Franchise Tax Board and the IRS provide us with reproducible master copies from which you can photocopy other forms you need. We cannot provide tax advice, however.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Gordon Parks tells his story in "Voices in the Mirror: An Autobiography." After a secure childhood in Kansas as the youngest of 15, young Parks was abruptly on his own at age 15 after the death of his mother. He overcame racism and other obstacles to achieve world reknown in several artistic fields, including photography, music, writing, painting and film.

Quite a different story is told by Charles Johnson, in his prize winning novel, "Middle Passage." It's 1830 in New Orleans, and newly freed slave Rutherford Calhoun, a well-educated scamp, stows away on a ship to avoid marriage with a prim schoolmarm. To his shock

and horror, he finds himself aboard a slave clipper bound for Africa. English Professor Johnson weaves many themes through the book, which won the National Book Award for fiction and is one of five contenders for the National Book Critics award for the most distinguished novel of 1990.

—Kay Roberts
Branch Librarian

BLACK MUSIC QUILT

While you're still in an inspirational mood from the wonderful harmonies of the Providence Baptist Church male chorus, bring your school-aged child or children (six years or older) to the library to help make a quilt commemorating the many musical contributions of Blacks in America. This craft program will be held on Saturday, February 16 at 10 a.m. All materials will be provided by the library.

FILMS

Preschool films based on African folktales will be shown at 9:15 and 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 26. This program will include: "Anansi the Spider," "A story, A story," and "Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky."

MAKE A HUG FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Children of all ages are invited to come to family storytime on Wednesday, February 13 at 7 p.m. to hear a Valentine's Day story and then, to make a hug to give to their family or friends the next day. If you're at all puzzled about this concept, please come and find out more.

STORYTIME

Preschool storytime (for 3-5 year olds) will meet every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Family storytime (for all ages) will meet every Wednesday at 7 p.m. The infant/toddler lapsit (birth - three years old) will meet every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

—Cathy Nyhan
Children's Librarian



Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street • San Francisco, California • (415) 826-8080
Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

Youth Council Meetings - Wed., 6 p.m.
Girls Club Meetings - Mon., 5-7 p.m.
Omega Boys Club Meetings - 1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
Every Tues., 7:30 p.m.
Tues., 5-7 p.m.

Study Hall
Juvenile Diversion
Tutorial Program
Job Referral

Al-Anon - Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Alcohol Anonymous - Sun/Mon/Thurs, 8:30 p.m.
Cocaine Anonymous - Sat., 6-7 p.m.

Social Development Center: For developmentally disabled adults. Basic education, cultural enrichment, consumer and health education, field trips, sensorimotor development, work training, leisure time use, group and individual counseling.

Senior Citizens Program: Hot lunches every weekday (at small cost).

Activities include - bingo games, information and referral, counseling, social hour, games and recreation.

Classes: Photography, Arts & Crafts.

Potrero Hill Neighborhood Theatre (cost, \$5-7 per performance).

Facilities:

Meeting spaces available for use by community groups
Auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, workshops and receptions
Gymnasium and recreational space
Photographic workshop
Bulletin board with job and events listings
Mini-park
Child Development Center (for pre-school children)

All services and activities FREE • Member, United Way of the Bay Area

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

LIBRARY MURAL TO BE A HILL HISTORY

"Work on a mural for the Potrero Branch Library will begin in late spring or early summer, according to Hill artist Margo Bors, who with the Potrero League of Active Neighbors (PLAN) has received a City grant for the project . . . a slide show the evening of February 25 will depict the relationship of the mural to the history of the Hill."

Thus was the Library mural announced in the February '81 VIEW. Is a celebration of its 10th anniversary upcoming?

PARICIPATORY PERFORMANCE FOR PARENTS

"Persons interested in participating in the performance "An Urban Guide to Feeding Your Child" will meet on February 19 . . . "An Urban Guide," a mixture of music, dance and conceptual pieces, will be performed on Sunday, April 12 at 3 p.m."

That's about all the VIEW story had to say about this. For some reason or other it strikes me as an odd concept. Did anyone see it? Did it actually get performed?

MUNI TO CHANGE HILL ROUTES

The February '81 VIEW announced that "The Muni Railway has agreed to take the 35 Eureka buses off De Haro Street, as demanded by De Haro residents last month."

The victorious community action was roused by a typical bureaucratic Good-News-Bad-News scenario. Muni improved its services by adding bus lines over the Hill. That's the good part. The bad part was that De Haro Street had "some 240 scheduled buses groaning up its grades every day." In this case violent objections were sustained, and the new buses were routed more equably.

TEN-YEAR-OLD MISCELLANEA

The Library News contained the following poignant appeal: "Has your child lost a jacket in the last few months? We have accumulated quite a collection . . . Also found: one plastic lunchbox." . . . More community action succeeded in routing a proposed PG&E power plant slated to be built at the eastern base of the Hill . . . Marya Lux wrote from her kibbutz in Israel that she enjoyed receiving the VIEW; that it allowed her to keep up with developments in the tight-knit urban community in which she was raised. . . Seniors (over 55) were invited to avail themselves of income tax services provided by "several private and governmental agencies" at the Nabe.

—Arden Arnautoff



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MARJORIE CUFFEY, Ed.D., DIRECTOR
826-6544 OR 826-8080

Feb. 10 Memorial
Set for Activist
Marcie Stack

Friends of Potrero Hill's Marcie Stack, who died Jan. 14 of pneumonia at age 78, are invited to a memorial meeting for her on Sunday, Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street.

Marcie and her husband, well-known runner Walter Stack, had lived on the Hill for the last decade. For a number of years, Marcie had suffered the effects of Muscular Dystrophy, which made it difficult for her to walk, and, towards the end, virtually impossible to swallow.

Despite these afflictions, she remained active on Potrero Hill, helping the View with our subscription coordination; volunteering tirelessly at the Neighborhood House at its annual Scenic Scamper and fundraising activities; and participating in the former Readers' Group at the Potrero Hill Library.

She had brought to her life on the Hill many decades of organizing experience, which began in the 1930s when she work-



ed in the canneries in Oakland and organized a union in her workplace. She then worked as an organizer for various cannery unions as well as the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO.

Marcie was active in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and expressed the desire that in lieu of flowers or other remembrances, contributions in her name be sent to WILPF at 50 Oak Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Kansas St. Neighbors Nix
Sound Barrier Proposal

By Peter Firth

The 14 foot high soundwall proposed for Highway 101 along Kansas Street near 22nd and 23rd Streets will probably be shelved, Arnold Lee, Caltrans Senior Engineer told the View last month.

Caltrans is in the middle of a huge soundwall building project along Highway 101, but Kansas Street owners and tenants banded together to fight the wall proposed for their block, citing the lack of practical value for anyone except graffiti artists.

Virtually all living spaces on that part of Kansas Street, which is directly across the freeway from San Francisco General Hospital, are above garage spaces. So the wall would diminish little or no sound from the freeway, but it would block views, stressed Pat Haslett, a longtime Kansas Street homeowner.

"People on this street would rather have trees like the giant eucalyptus on the other side of 23rd between Kansas and the freeway, or other greenery which absorbs carbon monoxide, gives off oxygen and is much more pleasant than a concrete wall to look at," explained Haslett. Along with Kansas Street resident Shari Franklin, Haslett circulated

a petition against the wall, which was signed by everyone on the block they were able to contact.

Lee said Caltrans has sent a questionnaire to all residents and property owners on the street to verify that a strong majority of people really don't want the wall. He also noted that it's unlikely that eucalyptus could be planted along this particular stretch because of the steep rocky hill leading down to the freeway, but indicated that city representatives who deal with tree planting would be looking at the area.



空手

KARATE
A PHYSICAL WORKOUT, A SPIRITUAL LIFT

WHERE: Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
WHEN: Saturdays - 11:00 - 1:30
STYLE: Traditional Japanese and Okinawan Martial Arts
Open to Men and Women,
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FOR MORE INFO: Call Michael Ayers, 654 - 1294

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• HEAVY DUTY TRUCK TIRES
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2230 THIRD ST. (BETWEEN 19TH AND 20TH)

861-4300

For Potrero Hill's Bermans, Protest is a Family Affair

Dozens of Potrero Hill residents who want to bring an end to the Persian Gulf war have joined protests and demonstrations to make their voices heard. Among them are longtime Hill homeowners Dan and Lorna Berman, who with their children Jacob, 4, and David, four months, have attended a number of demonstrations since November.

On Jan. 17, the day after the war started, Dan Berman, a teacher and author, was one of those arrested at the Federal Building as he was helping to block the Polk Street entrance. "I've never been arrested before for civil disobedience," he noted, adding that after he and others were taken to the Hall of Justice, "I met a lot of nice people.

"There were half a dozen or so with whom I got into long conversations, and not one had ever been arrested before on a demonstration." These weren't "professional protestors," he stressed.

Lorna Berman, a psychotherapist, has joined in demonstrations but has not been arrested because she must take care of their two children. "When the war started," she said, "a lot of people came out to the demonstrations because we didn't want to be home alone, depressed, watching TV. There were lots of families with children, including a single mother carrying her three-year-old. When we told her she must be tired, she replied, 'This is important.'"

"As we passed through the Tenderloin, thousands of us, there was an eerie feeling, seeing fire escapes filled with Southeast Asians, looking down, waving peace signs at us," Berman noted. "Many of them may have experienced bombing 20 years ago; it was like a march through history."

For Lorna Berman, this war "has been

an economic draft in a sense. People of color have enlisted as a way to survive, and even a lot of the whites that enlisted come from places where there's been an economic downturn."

This war, she charged, "is costing billions of dollars a day. We need money for schools, the homeless, the environment. These are the important issues, and this is where our national security lies."

And for Dan Berman as well, this war has strong economic underpinnings. "This war is about resources; who controls them, who spends them," he said. "Kuwait has been a part of the internal economy of the U.S.

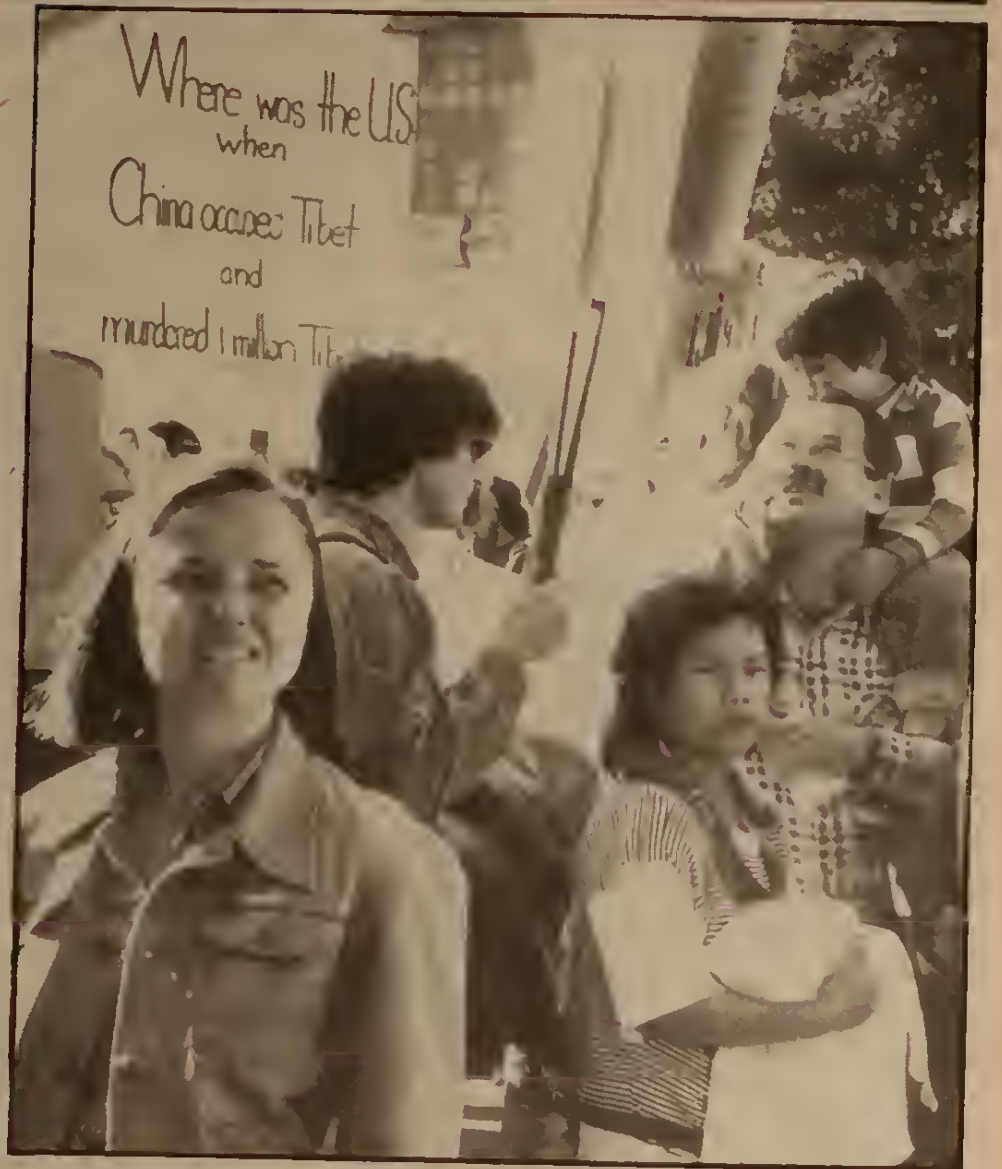
"Hundreds of billions of their oil profits have been funneled through Western banks, especially British and U.S. banks, and they control big blocks of stock. (That's part of the reason Presidents Reagan and Bush slashed President Carter's energy policies.) We didn't want the Kuwaiti oil money controlled by Saddam Hussein because he threatened to invest in Arab countries instead of the West," he charged.

"We may defeat Iraq," Berman said, "but that's just the beginning. Is this an excuse for a permanent occupation of Iraq? Kuwait? Saudi Arabia? Have we triggered an endless guerilla jihad against infidel Americans?"

Dan Berman vowed to continue to go to demonstrations as long as the war continues, and acknowledged that he "may be arrested again." He recalled that when he was at the Federal Building, "somebody was yelling at us, 'You're not supporting our boys.'"

"But we love our troops," he stressed, "and we want to bring them back alive."

— S.P.



Jacob, Dan Lorna and David Berman (at right, from top) prepare to embark on Jan. 19 peace march, in which nearly 100,000 walked from Dolores Park to Civic Center to call for an end to the war.

Ruth Passen photo

PRAY FOR PEACE OR ON THE VERGE OF WAR

we can teach our children
hatred
or
we can teach our children
love

i cry out for the 22,000 body bags sent
to Kuwait soon to return home filled
with chemically maimed cadavers

i cry out tears of anger when oil is
being traded, valued and sacrificed for
human life

i cry out tears of fears, knowing
countries have converted to terrorist
tactics, fanaticism and all in the
name of a higher G-D, coming soon
into our own backyards

i cry out for Israel whose desert sand
has been sifted from under their feet

i cry out for Palestinians whose land
is under seige

i cry out tears of frustration because
the "holy land" cannot accommodate
all

i cry out tears of despair knowing
babies and women will be annihilated

i am embittered and impassioned with
frenzy when war is declared by man's
incompetence and impaired egos and
pride. Hussein and Bush profiting
off of people's lives

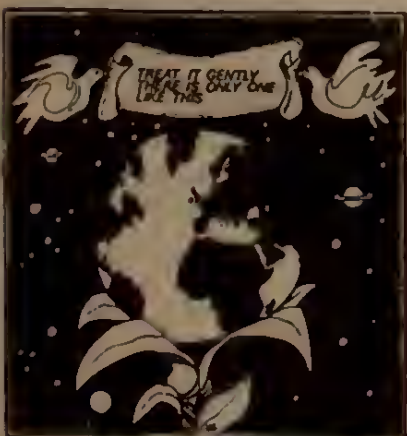
we can teach our children
war
or
we can teach our children
peace
please bring our soldiers home
alive
back from the Middle East

we can teach our children
hatred
or
we can teach our children
love...

15 January 1991

the day the war was supposed to start
happy birthday dr. king ????

— Lori Jean Robinson



Innocents Die in Ruthless "Hypocritical" War Over Oil

By Stephanie Potter

When a very dear and funny friend of mine was diagnosed with AIDS, I was distraught. A year later he died. Totally, utterly gone. No more hoping some magic might save him. No way to conjure him back. I was inconsolable.

Two years have passed. For months the living room had been visited by TV images of Iraqi shoppers and merchants mingling on the streets of Baghdad; Iraqi school-children smiling and chanting their memorized slogans; Iraqi mothers and fathers anxious for their sons. I've shared their anxiety, watching with foreboding, as if peering at passengers on the Titanic. They've since disappeared from the screen, replaced by reports of surgical

PERSONAL VIEW

strikes and carpet bombing, and my heart lies heavy like some great sad stone. If the death of just one man could bring so much grief, what must it be to fear for your entire family and everyone you know?

The Chronicle reports on "stunning and antiseptic" successes. I hear generals mention that surgical strikes result in "collateral damage," and when pushed they'll admit they refer to civilians. The stabbing in the pit of my stomach returns every time I look at the news. Thousands dead. Thousands dying. Everyone suffering, inconsolably.

Now Israel has been bombed. Soon Americans may begin dying in massive numbers. Jordan is likely to enter the fray. How long before angry Muslims in Syria, Afghanistan, Egypt, Pakistan (with nukes), Saudi Arabia, and even Iran, seek vengeance? With our determination to "kick ass," what have we set in motion? How many will die?

There is an unbearable hypocrisy in all this. I honestly believe Bush wanted this war. People say Saddam was impossible to bargain with, but we insisted

on "no concessions." Since when do you bargain without any compromise? We're told the sanctions wouldn't work, but during the last five months, Iraq sold not one drop of oil — its income reduced to virtually zero. We're told "aggression must be punished." But aggressions occur all over the world. This is the first time we've ever set a deadline to punish aggression. Succumbing to U.S. money and pressure, a majority in the UN Security Council voted in favor of force as necessary in the Persian Gulf, but the UN also voted 140 to 2 in favor of an international conference to discuss Middle East problems. Only the U.S. and Israel voted "No." It's clear we'd rather fight than talk.

So why this war? Bush denies it, but it's obvious that oil and greed play major roles. We certainly don't want Saddam in control of the oil fields. We can count on allies like Kuwait to invest their oil profits in the U.S. while Iraq threatens to keep the money at home. We are now establishing bases in Saudi Arabia, something we've wanted to do since 1973. If we control the oil directly, we can leverage prices, and, despite our failing economy, once again have Germany and Japan dependent on us as trading partners.

So I'm immensely sad, immensely angry. People dying abroad. Hypocrisy at home. Money that could have been spent on AIDS; the environment; alternative energy research; housing; and on and on, is spent on killing people. I've voted. I've contacted my representatives — unfortunately I'm incapable of making massive campaign contributions or paying lobbyists or buying a TV station.

To get more public attention I've joined the demonstrations — thousands of us united in our disaffection. I took part in a civil disobedience to block the Federal Building, and allowed myself to be arrested. It was a small effort to give this monolithic government a hard time, and to display my disapproval of "business as usual" when my taxes are being used to perpetrate so much suffering.

I hope that America may listen to those of us who choose peace, and not wait for the arrival of massive numbers of body bags.

Planning Commission Slated to Hear Questions on Live/Work, Condo Project

The controversy over plans to build 29 artists' live/work spaces and 61 condominiums at 18th and Arkansas Streets will move this month to the City Planning Commission.

Two separate issues in the planning process will be before the Commission. Because construction of residential units in an area now zoned M-1 requires a Conditional Use permit, the Commission will hear testimony about whether such a permit should be granted. In addition, the city panel will hear appeals to the Office of Environmental Review's Negative Declaration stating that no Environmental Impact Report (EIR) needs to be prepared on the project.

The Planning Commission hearing on the Conditional Use permit has been scheduled for Feb. 7, but, notes Planning Dept. staff, they will request that the Commission continue the matter until Feb. 28 so that it can be coordinated with testimony on the appeals that were filed to the Negative Declaration.

Studies conducted prior to the Negative Declaration concluded the project would have no significant impact on traffic and noise, but did indicate some effect on the views in the immediate area. "When viewed from the south side of 19th and Arkansas Streets at a sidewalk level, the project would block views of downtown San Francisco," the studies pointed out, but noted that "the overall impacts... would be the greatest at sidewalk level and would lessen as a viewer moves farther away from the project and ascends the hillsides surrounding the project site."

Major environmental concerns raised by the studies were two potentially hazardous materials that have been documented on the project property: "naturally occurring asbestos in serpentine rock, and buried, creosote-treated wood remaining from former use of the property as a railroad right-of-way."

Because project sponsor McKenzie, Rose and Holliday Development has agreed to a series of "mitigation measures" to address these hazards, the Negative Declaration found that "although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures... have been included as part of the proposed project."

To deal with the hazard of asbestos in serpentine rock it will be required that the general contractor sprinkle unpaved construction areas with water at least twice a day to reduce dust generation by about 50 percent; cover stockpiles of soil, sand and other materials, cover the trucks hauling debris and sweep the streets around the construction site at least once a day.

In addition, a trained inspector would be on the site during the excavation to identify serpentine rock, which would be disturbed as little as possible. The effectiveness of these asbestos control measures would be monitored by the collection of air samples during the excavation phase.

Although no creosote was found in the soil, it was a common practice to use creosote on railroad ties, and the plan

requires preparation and implementation of a "site remediation plan" that would ensure manifesting and hauling of contaminated materials by a licensed hazardous waste transporter."

Three appeals were filed to the Negative Declaration, one by Warehouse Union Local 6, which represents workers at the nearby Hills Bros. Coffee plant; one by members of the Lower Arkansas Street Neighbors Assn.; and one by members of the Steering Council of Potrero Commons.

The Local 6 appeal claims the project "would change the existing character of the community by threatening the industrial character of the neighborhood." The Arkansas Street Neighbors stress that the city's report "neglects to mention how the corner of 19th and Arkansas is used as a scenic vista not only by neighbors but as a commercial resource for photographers, motion pictures and television production companies as well as tourists."

And the appeal filed by Potrero Commons disagrees with the Negative Declaration on 11 initial grounds. Among them: That the project "will substantially increase ambient noise levels for adjoining areas, especially during public events at the planned gallery-performance space," and that the project "will substantially affect the habitat for migratory and resident birds, numerous species of insects and other invertebrates, and rare native flora, that is enhanced by natural seepage from underground springs."

— J.B.



At the corner of 19th and Arkansas Streets since early December, this totem pole signifies opposition to development on this vacant lot.

Judy Baston photo

COMMEMORATING DR. KING

Members of the Potrero Hill community gathered at 25th and Third Streets to join the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade Jan. 21. The event started in the Hunters Point/Bayview neighborhood, and the contingent waited for South Bay marchers to arrive by train at Fourth and Townsend Streets before continuing up Third to Market Street, and then to the Civic Auditorium for a rally.



Ruth Passen photos



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Innovative Teaching Plan Paying Off at Hill School

By Ruth Passen

Some 100 seventh graders at the Potrero Hill Middle School (PHMS) are in a special "student-centered core curriculum," aimed at helping them improve learning and behavioral skills. The teaching process — a decision-sharing concept — involves teachers, staff, school administration and parents.

The program was kicked off last September by acting principal Greg Bender, on loan from his regular job as Assistant Supervisor to Middle Schools.

The innovative instructional plan — initially approved in 1988 by the San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education for the special needs of children in the 6th to 8th grades, — had not, however, been implemented before in the middle school on Potrero Hill. Bender, an advocate of the plan, appointed a teaching team and set up the program to meet the challenge posed by low student morale, behavior and grades.

With four teachers assigned to the task — a choice given to those selected, rather than a mandate, as mathematics teacher Joanne Vail points out — core teachers share classes in a "clustered" curriculum with each of the instructors of four subjects meeting in small groups and sharing classes throughout the day.

English teacher Stephanie Gold explains how it works: During the first four periods of school "we can do what we want with the schedule (as it relates to their classes), because we see the student the same amount of time each week. We have a better opportunity to complete the lessons if we can continue the class after the bell rings. The kids don't have to run off to another class in another room down the hall, or on another floor."

And 12 year old Francisco Rabago agrees. He likes the four class/four period structure "because you can do your homework faster and not have to do it at home." Rabago says that his grades have improved "a lot. My first report

card this semester was 3.0," he noted, but, he also confessed to "messing up" in science and getting a 'D.' "But I'm improving now because I just decided to do my work in class," he points out.

Buena Bobineaux, the science teacher, had prior experience with shared teaching at Everett Middle School, and social science teacher Larry Prager had a taste of it in an "experimental" structure at the PHMS several years ago.

The four teachers share classrooms with their students and each other as a "school within a school," as one of the teachers explained. "We are better able to maintain class control," adds Prager, because the teachers confer on student behavior and achievement. They are in better contact with each other and parents, because 'sharing' means they can check immediately with each other about a student rather than waiting to check a student's record in the administrative office. "Talking together is a better way to learn how the students are doing," Prager stresses.

A standard method of dealing with students' problems is to meet in departmental meetings, but the four "core" teachers feel that "it's better in this shared way to deal immediately with particular problems. Kids of this age have more disciplinary problems than learning problems," Prager pointed out. And, as Gold says, "we should probably take over some counseling responsibilities," since they get to know their students so well. Teachers Bobineaux and Gold say there is "definite improvement in getting homework done," and Prager says the students' behavior is more trustworthy.

Twelve year old Aisha Brown notes that staying in the one classroom for two periods has given her "more time to learn." She had a problem of "talking in class too much last year," she said, but now she's quieter because of interest in the classes.

Citywide, 8th graders seem to be dropping out of school, the teachers say, and they all agree that if they



Winners of special achievement certificates at the Potrero Hill Middle School are (l/r) Latissa Manigo, Tameka Cato, Moreo Melnnis and Janae Nicolas. The youngsters are in a special "core curriculum" classroom method of learning, sharing four teachers in a four period school day.

Ruth Passen photo

could continue sharing the 7th graders into the next grade it would help the students stay in school. "The only way it will work is if the administration will agree to let us continue," Prager says. The teachers appear confident that it will happen.

As an incentive to help the students appreciate their own work and improvement, the teachers held a special event December 7 and awarded 50 students "Significant Improvement" and "Continued Excellence" certificates. Individual winners represented their own class "units," and were also given an opportunity to draw prizes for the groups. The event helped solidify the students' morale.

Tameka Cato, 13, was a winner for improvement in Social Studies and Language Art. She told the View that she hadn't been doing well in the previous grade, and so was "glad to be put into this program. I like all the classes and it helps for me to finish my classwork when I have two periods." Given the option, Cato says she would want to continue this system in the 8th grade. "I'm not going to drop out of school in the 8th grade," she says determinedly, though she "knows kids in elementary school who drop out!"

The teachers are joined in their enthusiasm for the plan by Bender, who hopes the next permanent principal will keep the program going. A new principal will be in place for the beginning of the new semester in February.

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Lord Edgar Hillcrest (Brian Thorstenson) left, confronted by his "late" wife, Irma Vep (Don Hiatt) in Charles Ludlam's camp send-up of British penny dreadfuls, "The Mystery of Irma Vep," directed by Suzanne Bennett, at the Eureka Theatre thru Feb. 17. The Eureka is at 2730 16th Street at Harrison. For more information call 558-9898.



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Jesse Tello, a dedicated parent with lots of children (18 in all), spends a good deal of time volunteering at the Hill's Daniel Webster School on Missouri Street, where two of his youngest are enrolled. Now Tello has been signaled out in the February issue of California Magazine as one of five parents who are working to make schools better. The parents all agree that the most critical jobs in the schools won't get done unless the parents get to work. Well done, Jesse!



Word has it that the military on Treasure Island will no longer provide assistance, trips to the naval base and other outdoor travels, and any other special help to San Francisco youth because the School Board approved a resolution Jan. 23 to deny access to students' names and addresses, and on-campus recruitment.

Need help with tax forms? TAX-AID volunteers will work with anyone who has earned \$18,000 or less in 1990, from 6-8 p.m. on Mondays beginning Feb. 25, in the Arts and Crafts Room at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. For more info call 434-5533.

From the Chronological History of Current Events, February 1877: On Feb. 13 Joseph Rodgers sentenced for six months for insulting a girl. And on Feb. 20, the Spring Valley Water Company refuses to supply water to the new City Hall. (Supervisors take note!)

St. Teresa's Church sponsors a rummage sale on Feb. 2 (9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.), and Feb. 3 (11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.). Sale items will include furniture, electrical equipment, jewelry and new and used clothing, and takes place at 19th and Connecticut Streets. Call 285-5272 for more info.

Phil Frank, creator of the Farley cartoon strip, makes an appearance at the Cartoon Art Museum, 665 Third St., on Sat., Feb. 16, from 1-4 p.m. Frank, the Museum's Guest Artist in Residence, will draw and answer questions about his work in an informal setting. The museum is open Wed.-Fri., 11-5 p.m., and 10-5 p.m. on Saturdays. Call 546-9481 for more info.

The Joseph Chowning Gallery presents painting "From the 1940s" by Stanton Macdonald-Wright, Feb. 9 to Mar. 14. The gallery is located at 1717-17th St. Call 626-7496 for exhibit hours.

Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., presents teach-ins related to the Gulf crisis during the month of February. Journalists Dennis Bernstein, Laura Fraser, Marcello Rodriguez, Norman Solomon and Kris Welch discuss "The Media's Role in Dis/Information," Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m.; and "Militarism Impacts Racism, Sexism and Homophobia" (with a different set of speakers) will be the focus of discussion Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Both events are free. Call 282-9246 for more info.

Seniors are invited to an annual free Valentine's Day dance at the County Fair Bldg., 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way at Golden Gate Park, Feb. 14, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The dance is sponsored by the San Francisco Rec and Park Department and the Federal Savings and Loan Assn. Call 666-7043 for more info.

A Pre-Spring Dance for lesbians old and young is being held on Feb. 24, from 3-6 p.m. at 450 Geary St. The benefit is hosted by Bay Area Old Lesbians to send "old lesbians to the historic First Nation at Lesbian Conference in Atlanta in April, 1991." For more info call Rosemary or Pat at 626-7000.

Chicano artists responded to a call Jan. 17 by the Mexican Museum to come together and paint their feelings about the outbreak of war in the Middle East. The results of their work can be seen through February at the Museum, located at Fort Mason Bldg. D. Mike Rios, Artist in Residence at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is one of an impressive list of well known local artists, which includes Patricia Rodriguez, Xochitl Guerrero, Rene Yanez, Ricardo Vinos, Jr., Rupert Garcia, Ester Hernandez, Juana Alicia, Emmanuel Montoya, Juanishi Orozco, Gina Montoya, Daniel Galvez, Jos Sances, Sal Garcia and Enrique Chagoyan. For more info, call 441-0445.

Black History Month doings: The Neighborhood House children's group will present a program of recitals, readings and songs on Feb. 24, at 3 p.m. at 953 De Haro St. During the month there will be special school children's programs at the S.F. African American Historical Society Center at Ft. Mason in Bldg. C. A video presentation of "A Walking Tour of the Black Presence in San Francisco During the 19th Century" will run continuously throughout the month. Call 441-0640 for more info. And the University of California San Francisco celebrates with two lectures on black women: On Feb. 5 author Bell Hooks talks about race and gender images, racism and sexism. Rapper and actress Dominique Di Prima will speak on "Female Rap Rising — the State of Women in Hip Hop," Feb. 21. Both lectures take place at noon in Cole Hall, Medical Sciences Bldg., 513 Parnassus St.

The "Brown Bag" lecture series sponsored by UCSF is now being offered at their site in the Mission district, 1855 Folsom St., in Room 125. The Feb. 14 lecture, "Twelve Steps to Cancer Prevention and Better Health" is presented by Dr. Ernest H. Rosenbaum. The event is from noon to 1 p.m. Call 476-4394 for info on future lectures. Also, the UCSF Mobile Mammography van is scheduled to offer breast cancer screenings weekdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Feb. 25-Mar. 1, on the Embarcadero, Drumm Street between Sacramento and Clay. The exam costs \$50 and takes no more than 20 minutes. The only requirement is written or verbal approval from a doctor.

Interested in the Mission district murals? The Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center offers walking tours the first and third Saturdays of each month, from 1:30-3 p.m. Contact Susan Cervantes, 285-2287 for more info.

"You and Your Aging Parent," a mutual support group sponsored by Jewish Family and Children's Services, meets on alternate Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. Call Evelyn Levin at 561-1215.

San Francisco Camerawork presents the exhibition "Nuclear Matters" through March 9. The exhibit is a survey of works by photographers, filmmakers and video artists committed to exposing how the nuclear industry, in its many forms, permeates daily existence. The gallery is located at 70-12th St. in San Francisco. There is no admission charge. Call 621-1001 for more info.

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Holidays On The Hill

Since the POTRERO VIEW does not appear in January we offer the following scenes of the holiday season on Potrero Hill in this issue.



At the Christmas party in the Potrero Library, Dennis Hyson (above) entertained the audience of parents and children before Santa Claus arrived with special gifts from the National Football League Alumni, via ex-49er and Hill resident Joe Perry (below).



A young Santa Claus helped hand out presents at the Neighborhood House Christmas party, and even took time to hear requests.



After a performance of the "Nutcracker Ballet" in December, Potrero Hill children were treated to a tour backstage by principal dancer Tom Rudd, who let the youngsters hold the "real" nutcracker.



Potrero Hill Middle School students pitched in to collect grocery items to be distributed to needy families in the community for the holidays.



Christmas at the Neighborhood House was celebrated with a medley of holiday songs presented by members of the House's youth programs.

Photos on this page by Ruth Passen

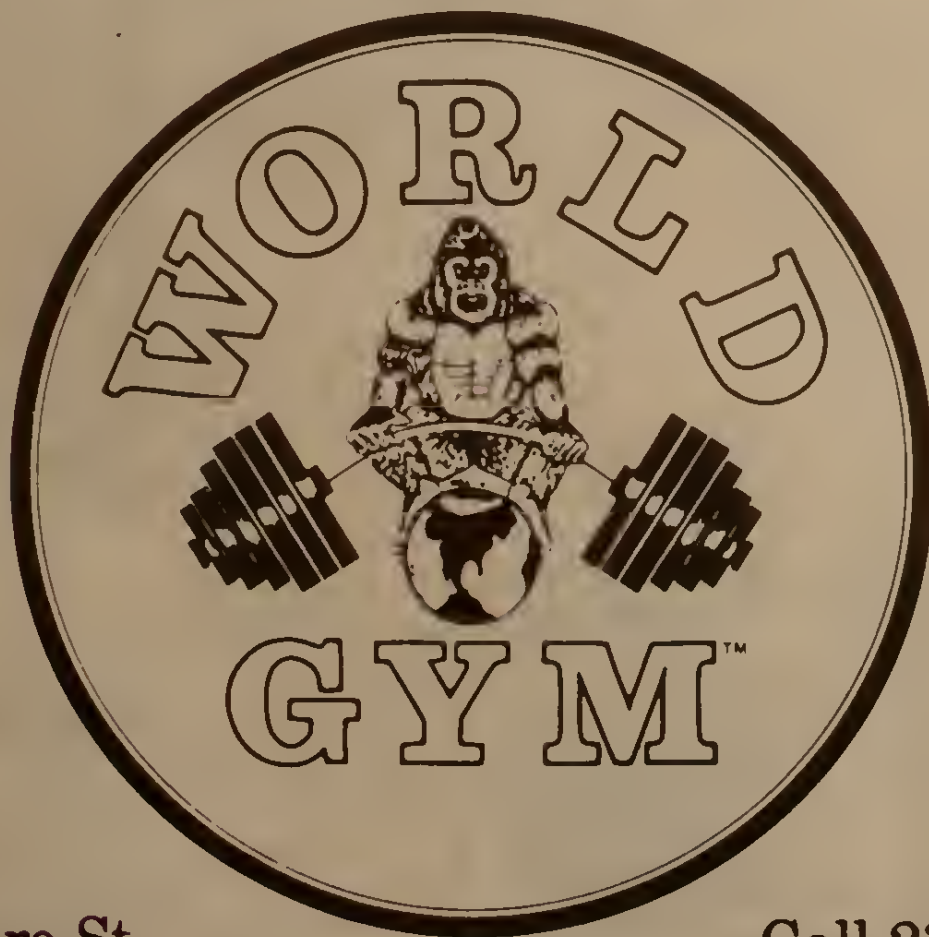
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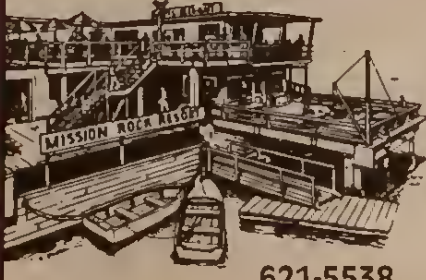

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Name

Address

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Age Daytime Phone

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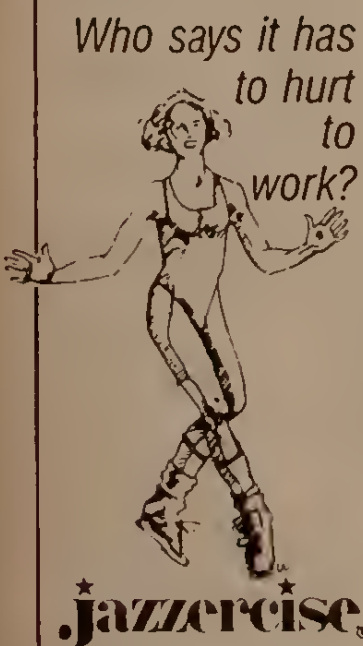
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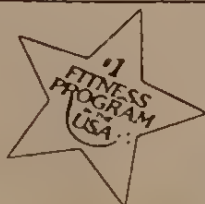
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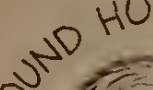
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Mary Lace Realtor Associate

GROUND HOG DAY - FEB. 2



when the ground hog is said to come out of hibernation: if he sees his shadow, he will return to his hole for another 6 more weeks of winter.

A stylized illustration of a winged cherub or putto, sitting and holding a long, flowing ribbon. The cherub has a small, curly-haired headpiece and is depicted in a relaxed, seated pose. The ribbon flows from its hands across the bottom of the frame. The entire illustration is rendered in a simple, brown line-art style.



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